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Proxmire Assails CIA On Soviet Arms Cost

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Faulty analysis by the CIA misrepresents increases in Soviet defense spending, resulting in exaggerated pressure to boost U.S. military outlays, Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., charged yesterday.

In a speech on the Senate floor, Proxmire criticized as "a simple fallacy" the CIA's use of dollar cost analysis based on American-type productivity. The method does not consider pay differences or the Soviet Union's lower economic efficiency, particularly in defense production, he said.

"In truth," Proxmire said, "Soviet defense spending has been rising at a constant 3 percent and the Soviets do not outspend the United States by 30 to 50 percent as so often is reported in the press."

Proxmire, chairman of a subcommittee dealing with Soviet and Chinese military spending, made his attack one day after the CIA reported to Congress on Soviet defense spending.